



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 May 1998

Original: English

Fifty-second session

Agenda item 142 (a)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Management of peacekeeping assets

Development of the field assets control system and the field mission logistics system

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997, the General Assembly endorsed the proposals for the development and implementation of the field assets control system contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the management of peacekeeping assets dated 31 July 1997 (A/51/957). In the same resolution, the Assembly also noted the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to develop the field mission logistics system. The present note provides information on the progress to date in the development and deployment of these two systems.
2. The design of the field assets control system was described in paragraphs 10 to 17 of document A/51/957. Field testing and performance verification of the technical platform was conducted at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in June and July 1997. During August and September 1997, in-mission testing was conducted at the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). During November and December 1997, the field assets control system was successfully installed in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and at Brindisi for the missions' assets.
3. Although the General Assembly endorsed the development and deployment of the field assets control system (see para. 1 above), it did not take any action on the Secretary-General's related request for four support account-funded posts at Headquarters for this purpose (one P-4, two P-3, one General Service). Since the Field Administration and Logistics Division has not had the capability to support further implementation and maintenance, it has not been possible to install the system as originally envisaged. It is



anticipated that, if the additional posts are approved and staff recruited, the system can be successfully installed in the remaining field missions within a period of twelve months.

4. The purpose and design of the field mission logistics system was described in paragraphs 25 and 26 of document A/51/957. The field mission logistics system will use the Organization's existing global mission communications, data storage and transmission infrastructure. The system will take advantage of modern commercial groupware (software) for the seamless integration and transfer of data between field missions and the Field Administration and Logistics Division. Use of groupware technology that supports near real-time multi-level user access and the transfer or update of information from external data sources will enable standardization of data capture, data sharing and transfer of information between existing field mission databases, elimination of data entry redundancies (i.e. existing mission databases can be used for the retrieval and re-configuring of data for use in other missions thus eliminating the need for manual re-entry of such data), and provide transparency between missions and within each mission area. By providing management reports, the system will be of great assistance in the resolution of discrepancies and in ensuring prompt reporting by recipient missions.

5. It is anticipated that the remaining modules of the field mission logistics system could be developed and deployed to our field mission by the end of 1999, based on the assumption that support account-funded staffing resources (one P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and two General Service (other level)) additional to that referred to in paragraph 3 above will also be authorized by 1 July 1998. As stated earlier, it is envisaged that the field asset control system would be installed in up to 15 field missions in twelve months after the approval and recruitment of the staff required. Therefore, should approval be granted during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, it is conceivable that this work will be completed during the second quarter of 1999.

6. The staffing requirements needed to deploy and maintain the field assets control system (one P-4, two P-3, one General Service) and to develop, implement and maintain the field mission logistics system (one P-3, three General Service (including one at Principal level)) have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/52/837).
